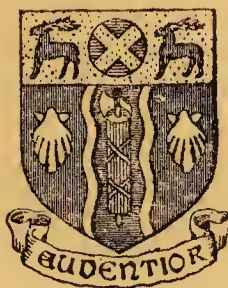


AC 4421 (1) WATFORD

BOROUGH OF



WATFORD

Annual Report

ON

Health, Sanitary Conditions ETC.

FOR THE YEAR 1938, BY

William J. Cox, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health. Medical Officer Maternity
and Child Welfare Scheme, Medical Superintendent of
Watford Joint Isolation Hospital. Assistant School
Medical Officer, Herts. County Council.

INCLUDING REPORTS ON
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS. WATFORD DENTAL
CLINIC AND WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL



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WATFORD
Watford Printers Limited, 58 Vicarage Road, Watford, Herts.
1939

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
1 ST. ALBANS ROAD,
WATFORD.

May, 1939.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my seventeenth Annual Report, which is also the Seventeenth Health Report of the Borough of Watford.

It is actually the Sixty-sixth Annual Report for this district, as it was preceded by forty-nine Health Reports of the former Urban District.

This year's report is an ordinary report and not the full Survey Report which is published every fifth year.

I have to report with much regret the resignation of Mr. S. Jump, Senior Sanitary Inspector, who retired towards the end of the year. It is satisfactory, however, that he has been succeeded by Mr. R. V. Jacob, who had been his deputy for many years.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. COX.

ARRANGEMENT OF ANNUAL REPORT.

I. GENERAL.

List of Public Health Staff.
Vital Statistics.
Natural and Social conditions of the Area.

II. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) Public Health Staff.
(b) Nursing in the Home, and Midwives.
(c) Laboratory Facilities.
(d) Legislation in force.
(e) Maternity and Nursing Homes.
(f) Maternal Mortality.
(g) Ambulance Facilities.
(h) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water, Drainage and Sewerage, Scavenging, Sanitary Inspection, Smoke Abatement, Health Education, Shops Act.

IV. HOUSING.

(a) Unhealthy areas.
(b) Schemes to relieve shortage.
(c) Housing Schemes completed.
(d) Statistics for the year.
(e) Eradication of bed bugs.
(f) Overcrowding.

V. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk, Meat, etc.

VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious diseases
Laboratory work. Cases notified.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) Statistics.
(b) Orthopædic Centre.
(c) Pre-school Clinic.
(d) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.
(e) Dental Clinic.
(f) Other matters.

IX. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

X. DENTAL TREATMENT.

XI. WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospital,

Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme :—

WILLIAM J. COX, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (for Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics) :—

WINIFRED PIGGOTT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.

Assistant Medical Officer (for Wiggenhall and North Watford Centres and also for Pre-School Clinic and Immunisation Centre) :—

MARGARET WARD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Dental Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre :—

SIDNEY W. FISK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

S. JUMP, M.S.I.A., CERT. R. SAN. INST. (Retired December, 1938).

,, ,, ,, (Meat and Foods).

*Meat and Food Inspector :—

R. V. JACOB, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

,, ,, ,, (Meat and Foods).

*Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :—

A. W. NICOL, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

,, ,, ,, (Meat and Foods).

A. S. HIBBERT, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

,, ,, ,, (Meat and Foods).

Inspector under Shops Act :—

A. CORKE.

Health Visitors :—

MISS G. M. HAMMOND, General Training, and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS ELSIE F. POTTER, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS M. ROBERTSON, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS I. V. E. THURLEY, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

Clerks :—

(Public Health) R. A. SMITH.

(Maternity and Child Welfare) Miss G. M. BROADHEAD.
Miss S. HOOKER.

* Denotes salary contribution made by Exchequer grants.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area—5,275 acres.

†Population to Mid-year 1938—65,690 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses—13,453 (Census, 1931).

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books, December 31st, 1938, was approximately 18,000.

Number of families or separate occupiers—14,799 (Census 1931).

Rateable value—£614,004 (April 1st, 1938). (See further particulars below).

Sum represented by a penny rate—£2,440 (April 1st, 1939).

SOME FURTHER PARTICULARS OF RATEABLE VALUE OF THE BOROUGH ON 1st APRIL, 1939.

The following particulars have been kindly supplied by Mr. A. E. Barker, Chief Collector of Rates and Valuation Officer:—

	£	Rate Poundage for half-year beginning 1st April, 1939
Parish of Watford—No. 1 District ...	267,062	5/10 in £
Parish of Watford—No. 2 District ...	134,539	5/10 in £
Parish of Watford—No. 3 District ...	180,371	5/10 in £
Metropolitan Police District ...	21,368	5/10 in £
Leavesden, etc., Differential Rating Area ...	10,664	5/4 in £
	<u>£614,004</u>	

NOTE—The above includes the values in respect of Government Properties.

Water Rate for whole of Water Supply Area ... 6d. in £

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

After correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	974	511	463	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.2.
	{ Illegitimate	30	17	13	
Stillbirths	... ..	23			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 15.7.
Deaths	... ..	692			Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.6.
Deaths from puerperal causes					
				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	2	1.99
	Other puerperal causes	...	...	4	3.98
	Total	...	...	6	5.97
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—					
	All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	41.7
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	106
„	„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	3
„	„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„	„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	2

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF WATFORD.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of Watford at Mid Year 1938 is 65,690, and this figure has been adopted for compiling our local statistics.

BIRTH RATE.—The number of births in the Borough of Watford during the last year after correction for inward and outward transfers was 1,004 compared with 968 in 1937. This gives a Birth Rate of 15.2.

This Birth Rate is almost the same as that of the whole country for 1938 which was 15.1.

STILL BIRTHS.—Twenty-three still births were notified during the year compared with 22 in 1937. This gives a rate of .33 per 1,000 population as compared with .6 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

The following table is also interesting for purposes of comparison. In it the vital statistics for the Borough of Watford are compared with similar statistics for the whole country, London, and other groups of towns.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE A.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES, AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1938.

ENGLAND AND WALES, LONDON, 126 GREAT TOWNS AND 148 SMALLER TOWNS AND BOROUGH OF WATFORD.
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London.	148 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census).	London Administra- tive County.	WATFORD.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births:					
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	15.2
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.33
Deaths:					
All causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	10.6
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.02
Scarlet Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.01
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.02
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.06
Notifications:					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	1.80
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	0.30
Enteric Fever ...	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.01
Erysipelas... ..	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.18
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	0.24
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age... ..	53	57	51	57	41.7
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	3.22
Maternal Mortality:					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.86	} Not available		{	1.99
Others	2.11				3.98
Total	2.97				5.97

POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN WATFORD SINCE 1890

YEAR	POPULATION estimated to middle of year	BIRTHS		DEATHS		
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate.	
1890	16,000	328	20·50	225	14·0	{ Census 1891 gave popula- tion as 16,819
1891	16,519	396	23·54	220	13·0	
1892	19,400	547	28·19	276	14·22	
1893	20,500	580	28·78	265	12·92	
1894	21,500	610	28·37	225	10·46	
1895	23,200	724	31·20	367	15·8	
1896	24,000	691	28·58	285	11·9	
1897	25,300	679	26·83	258	10·2	
1898	26,500	754	28·45	311	11·7	
1899	27,500	760	27·63	355	12·9	
1900	28,500	830	29·12	408	14·3	{ Census 1901 gave popula- tion as 29,327
1901	29,527	944	31·90	363	12·2	
1902	31,000	823	26·50	348	11·2	
1903	31,600	909	28·70	375	11·8	
1904	33,048	928	28·00	380	11·4	
1905	34,633	946	27·3	373	10·7	
1906	35,237	954	27·0	377	10·6	
1907	36,379	914	25·1	428	11·7	
1908	37,521	896	23·8	350	9·3	
1909	38,663	935	24·1	400	10·3	
1910	39,805	887	22·3	375	9·4	{ Census 1911 gave popula- tion as 40,939
1911	41,200	907	22·0	418	10·1	
1912	42,570	897	21·0	389	9·1	
1913	43,670	885	20·2	434	9·9	
1914	45,000	969	19·0	450	10·0	
1915	41,640	872	20·9	510	12·2	
1916	41,436	783	17·3	491	11·7	
1917	40,650	625	13·7	475	11·3	
1918	50,502	596	11·8	577	12·8	
1919	48,113	624	12·9	509	11·0	
1920	48,027	1,077	22·4	407	8·4	{ Census 1921 gave popula- tion as 45,910
1921	45,910	890	19·3	426	9·2	
1922	46,610	915	18·9	448	9·6	
1923	47,100	866	18·3	405	8·5	
1924	48,628	847	17·7	481	9·8	
1925	48,990	847	17·2	484	9·8	
1926	50,033	775	15·4	477	9·5	
1927	52,580	825	15·4	543	10·03	
1928	54,460	842	15·4	511	9·38	
1929	54,670	834	15·2	644	11·7	
1930	55,870	864	15·4	535	9·5	{ Census 1931 gave popula- tion as 56,799
1931	56,500	829	14·6	525	9·2	
1932	57,400	819	14·2	602	10·4	
1933	57,370	809	14·01	629	10·7	
1934	57,800	848	14·6	621	10·7	
1935	63,200	896	14·4	580	9·3	
1936	64,110	954	14·7	655	10·2	
1937	64,880	968	14·9	630	9·8	
1938	65,690	1004	15·2	692	10·6	

Birth and Death rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths for the Borough after allowing for outward and inward transfers is, according to the Registrar-General's return, 692, as compared with 655 in the previous year.

This gives a *Death Rate* of 10.6 per 1,000 from all causes which compares favourably with London's Death Rate of 11.4 and with the Death Rate of the whole country, which was 11.6 per 1,000.

The following table gives a complete list of deaths from all causes.

TABLE B.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						Male.	Female.
All Causes...						345	347
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...				—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	2	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	2
4.	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	1	—
5.	Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...	—	3
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	5	4
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	1	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...				19	18
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...			4	2
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	2	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...			53	53
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	5	7
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...			10	16
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	91	102
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	1	1
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...			15	26
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	8
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	16	15
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...			—	—
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	5	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...			2	—
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	3	2
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	...	...			1	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...			13	5
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...			10	6
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	2
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...			—	4
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	..	...		18	8
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	9	14
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	5	1
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	20	13
35.	Other Defined Diseases	...	...			22	30
36.	Causes-Ill-defined or Unknown	...				—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):—							
	Smallpox	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—

INFANT DEATHS.—Under the age of 12 months. These number 42, giving an *Infant Death Rate* of 41.7 per 1,000 births. It will be seen from the comparative table of Birth and Death Rates given on page 8, that the Infant Death Rate of Watford is lower than that of London which is 57 and the whole country which is 53.

Particulars of the various causes of death under the age of 12 months are given in the following Table.

TABLE C.—DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

CAUSE.	Under 1 Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 9 Months	9 to 12 Months	TOTAL
Suffocation	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Cardiac Disease ...	1	1	1	—	—	3
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	3	1	—	1	—	5
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Prematurity ...	23	2	1	—	—	26
Gastritis and Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	2	1	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	1	—	1	—	—	2
Laryngeal Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Misadventure (Coroner)	—	1	—	—	1	2
Totals	28	5	3	3	3	42

SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

The favourable social and physical conditions which prevail in the district and which undoubtedly tend in the direction of a low death rate have already been dealt with in previous reports.

A complete list of open spaces owned by the Corporation was also included in last year's report.

I am able to give some interesting particulars about the various areas in the town which are under cultivation for allotments, showing which of these are permanently zoned for this purpose under the Town Planning Scheme. These open spaces are of great value from a health point of view.

Group	Area (acres)	No. of Plots	No. of Vacant Plots	Whether zoned as Permanent under T.P. Scheme
Harebreaks	20·056	264	72	Yes
Callowland	23·081	319	3	Yes
Wiggenhall	8·625	117	28	Yes
Oxhey Grange... ..	5·193	70	—	Yes
Loates Lane	18·650	272	123	Yes
Paddock Road (Part)...	12·000	179	10	Yes in Bushey U.D.C.
Polecat Lodge... ..	1·050	16	—	Yes
Holywell Farm	11·086	174	—	Yes
TOTALS ...	100·461	1,411	236	
Paddock Road (Part)...	3·500	37	—	No
Tolpits Lane and Watford West...	18·244	292	18	No
Farm Terrace	11·644	136	—	No
London Orphan School	14·412	179	10	No
TOTALS ...	47·800	644	28	

UNEMPLOYMENT IN WATFORD

UNEMPLOYMENT IN WATFORD is not so serious as in some industrial districts, as the following figures (for which I am indebted to Mr. Salter, Manager of the Watford Labour Exchange) show.

On the date of the last official figures published, January 17th, 1939, the number of persons registered as unemployed at the Watford Employment Exchange was as follows :—

Men. 21-65	Young Men. 18-20	Boys. 14-17	Women. 21-65	Young Women. 18-20	Girls. 14-17	Total.
1,936	276	37	198	17	29	2,496

Included in these figures are 389 men and 209 men 18-20 at the Government Training Centre, Watford, who have mainly come from distressed areas and are now undergoing training. The figures also include 159 persons proving unemployment at the Boreham Wood branch of this Exchange.

The area covered by the Watford Employment Exchange includes Bushey, Elstree and Boreham Wood, Aldenham, Abbots Langley, part of King's Langley and Langleybury, and it is estimated that the number of persons unemployed in the *Borough of Watford* excluding the men at the Training Centre at the date mentioned above was approximately 1,450 persons.

II. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(See page 5)

(b) HOME NURSING AND MIDWIVES.

THE WATFORD AND DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION has its headquarters at 37 Langley Road. It was founded in 1935, and at first confined its activities to the area of the Borough of Watford.

It has eleven nurses under the superintendence of Miss Dixon, and an assistant superintendent. At the present time there are over 7,500 members of the Contributory Scheme but more are required. A new Home is urgently needed and a site has been purchased for this purpose.

An annual grant to the Society is made by the Watford Corporation.

MIDWIVES. — The Herts. County Council is the supervising authority for Midwives, whose services may be engaged from the Home in King Street. In addition there are four midwives in private practice in the Borough, which is therefore well catered for in this respect.

(c) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

For general pathological and other forms of laboratory investigation the medical practitioners of Watford usually rely upon the Peace Memorial Hospital. A Pathologist and whole time laboratory assistant have been appointed.

Diphtheria swabs from the Borough are sent to the Peace Memorial Hospital for examination; also certain other pathological specimens. Swabs from the Joint Isolation Hospital for K.L.B. and hæmolytic streptococcus are also examined there.

(d) **LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT WITH DATE OF ADOPTION.**

The undermentioned Acts have been adopted in the Borough of Watford :—

- The Infectious Disease (Notification Act), 1889.
- The Infectious Disease (Prevention Act), 1890.
- The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
- The Baths and Wash-houses Acts.
- The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
- The Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907 (part).
- The Notification of Births Act, 1907.

The following Local Act and Orders are in force in the Borough of Watford :—

- The Watford Urban District Council Act, 1909.

The Borough Council has made bye-laws or regulations for the following matters :—

- New Streets and Buildings.
- The Cleansing of Footways and Pavements.
- Nuisances.

Common Lodging Houses.
 Slaughter Houses.
 Pleasure Grounds.
 Bathing Place.
 Houses Let in Lodgings.
 Offensive Trades.
 Water Supply.
 Commons.
 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.
 Keeping of Poultry.
 Dogs (fouling of public footways).
 Smoke Abatement.
 Wireless.

(e) MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Watford is fairly well supplied with Maternity Homes. Most of these institutions also admit cases from outside the borough. The following particulars show the numbers admitted at each institution in the town.

COUNTY MATERNITY HOME, KING STREET. This institution admitted 359 patients in the year 1938, of whom 188 were from the Borough of Watford.

SHRODELLS MATERNITY WARD admitted 67 cases, 43 of these being from the Borough of Watford.

STANBOROUGH'S MATERNITY HOME admitted 94 cases from the borough, as compared with 76 in the previous year.

Altogether the three institutions above mentioned admitted 325 cases from the borough in 1938 as compared with 288 cases admitted by the same institutions in 1937. In addition a certain number of cases were also admitted by private nursing homes.

(f) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were two deaths from puerperal pyrexia during the year 1938 and four from "other puerperal causes". This gives a maternal mortality of 5.97 for Watford, as compared with 2.97 for England and Wales.

(g) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

In addition to Motor Ambulances in use at the Isolation Hospital for removal of infectious cases, there are also the Corporation Ambulances provided in co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The chief officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. S. B. Manning) reports that there are three ambulances now in service. These are equipped with "Thermega" electric blankets, which are controlled by thermostats and do not exceed a temperature of 114° F.

(h) **CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.**

These are the same as in the previous year.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Borough is obtained from three sources, and is moderately hard.

(I) and (II) *The Borough's own supplies from wells in Watford Fields and at Grove Mill.*

Samples are analysed by Messrs. Beale and Suckling of the Counties Public Health Laboratories once a fortnight. These supplies are sterilised by the chloramine process. Reports from our analysts dated 17th December, 1938, make the following statement :

This sample is clear and bright and of a high degree of bacterial purity in which respects it is considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of public supply.

The same comment is made about each of the supplies in question.

(III) *A supply from the Colne Valley Water Co. which is distributed to the Oxhey District. This supply is sterilised by chlorination, followed by dechlorination with sulphur dioxide before distribution in the mains.*

Another supply was formerly obtained from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Water Company for certain parts of Leavesden, but this supply has now been discontinued.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

I am indebted to Mr. S. Jump, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for the following table which is a copy of particulars which have to be supplied to the Ministry of Health each year, showing full details of cost, etc., of this service. The particulars, however, relate to the twelve months ending 31st March, 1938.

Item. (1)	Particulars. (2)	I.—Collection, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded		II.—Disposal, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded		TOTAL, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded	
		Included (3)	Excluded (4)	Included (5)	Excluded (6)	Included (7)	Excluded (8)
A	REVENUE A/c						
B	Gross Expenditure	£ 8,420	£ 7,890	£ 5,167	£ 5,167	£ 13,587	£ 13,057
	Gross Income ...	468	468	1,896	1,896	2,364	2,364
C	Net Cost ...	7,795	7,145	2,937	2,937	10,732	10,082
D	UNIT COSTS	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
E	Gross expenditure, per ton ...	10 2·8	9 7·1	6 3·4	6 3·4	16 6·2	15 10·5
	Gross income, per ton ...	6·8	6·8	2 3·7	2 3·7	2 10·5	2 10·5
F	Net cost, per ton	9 8	9 0·3	3 11·7	3 11·7	13 7·7	13 0·0
G	Net cost, per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	£ s. d. 437 2 10	£ s. d. 408 0 1	£ s. d. 179 16 3	£ s. d. 179 16 3	£ s. d. 616 19 1	£ s. d. 587 16 4
H	Net cost, per 1,000 population ...	£ s. d. 122 11 3	£ s. d. 114 7 11	£ s. d. 50 8 4	£ s. d. 50 8 4	£ s. d. 172 19 7	£ s. d. 164 16 3
J	RATE POUNDAGE						
K	Net cost; equivalent rate in the £	3·428	3·199	1·410	1·410	4·838	4·610
	Percentage of J to total rates in the £ ...	2·597%	2·424%	1·068%	1·068%	3·665%	3·492%

1.	Total refuse collected (in tons) ...	16,449	5.	Number of Houses and premises	19,291
2.	Population, Midsummer, 1937 ...	64,880	6.	Rateable Value ...	£577,577
3.	Area (Statute acres) ...	5,275	7.	Product of a penny rate ...	£2319·475
4.	Weight (in cwt.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	13·8	8.	Total rates in the £ ...	11s. 0d.

9.	Method of collection :—	Number of vehicles	Percentage of refuse collected
	Horse Vehicles ...	—	—
	Mechanical vehicles ...	10	100%
	Container system (combination of mechanical and horse vehicles)	—	—

METHOD OF DISPOSAL :—

Burnt in Meldrum's Destructor.

Average length of haul to disposal ... 2 miles.

Nine S. & D. freighters and one Scammell are used for the collection of house refuse.

One of the freighters, which is mounted on pneumatic tyres, is used for the collection of fish offal and slaughterhouse offal, and on this work is employed approximately half a day, the rest of the time on house refuse collection. Fish and slaughterhouse offal is collected in a very satisfactory and much more economical manner than was previously the case with horse-drawn vehicles.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A Water Carriage System for sewage is in general use in Watford with the exception of certain areas which are still not connected up with the sewer. These districts are chiefly in the Nascot Wood area, parts of High Road Leavesden, and Sheepcot Lane, and still rely on cesspools.

REPORT OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Visits to Infected Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Houses Inspected (Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	307
„ re-Inspected „ „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	1327
„ Inspected (Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
„ re-Inspected „ „	...	...	...	...	...	...	348
Special visits to Houses, Insanitary Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
„ Enquiries <i>re</i> Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Factories (Power) Inspected	}	...	...	...	...	...	409
„ Non-Power „		...	...	...	...	...
Inhabited Vans Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Urinals Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	42

Manure Pits Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,043
Visits to Schools <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Nuisances Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	650
Interviews with Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	414
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,148
House Drains Smoke Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ Water Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ Chemically Tested and Examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Scavenging Superintended	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
„ <i>re</i> Sanitary Condition of Theatres, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	359
Legal Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
School Notices Served after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Number of Letters Sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,497
Number of Complaints Received	...	...	...	...	...	...	332
Number of Licences granted under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
„ „ „ „ Carbide Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cowsheds Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Milkshops and Dairies Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	720
Slaughter House Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,787
Visits to Market	...	...	...	...	...	...	345
„ to Food Preparing Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	341
„ to Fish Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,595
„ to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	984
„ <i>re</i> Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,108
„ <i>re</i> Rats and Mice Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
„ <i>re</i> Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	304
„ <i>re</i> Smoke Nuisances (observations, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
„ <i>re</i> Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
„ to Watercress Beds	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
„ <i>re</i> Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ <i>re</i> Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
„ <i>re</i> Defective Fresh Air Inlets	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ <i>re</i> Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ <i>re</i> Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Samples of Milk Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
„ „ Water Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Visits to Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

NUISANCES ABATED.

Choked Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
„ W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
„ Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ Inspection Chambers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ „ Covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ Interceptors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ Fences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
„ W.C. Flushing Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
„ Soil Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ Vent Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ Gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
„ Sinks and Sink Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
„ Eaves, Guttering and Rain Water Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
„ Fresh Air Inlets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
„ Doors and Door Frames	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
„ Staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Ceilings, Plastering, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
„ Coppers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
„ Chimneys and Flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ Window Frames and Sash Cords	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ Fireplaces and Cooking Ranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
„ Brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rooms Renovated, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
Yard Paving Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Filthy Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dampness Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Dirty Closets and Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
General Repairs, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	295
Poultry and Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dustbins Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Smoke Nuisances Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

DISINFECTION, ETC.

Rooms after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	271
„ „ Consumption	...	...	...	...	...	61
„ „ Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ for Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	69
School Rooms after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	74
Hospital Wards, etc., Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	15

BEDDING, ETC., DISINFECTED.

Mattresses	...	...	26	Blankets	...	...	452
Beds	...	...	132	Sheets	...	...	261
Pillows	...	...	214	Sundries	...	...	511
Bolsters	...	...	191				

BEDDING, ETC., DESTROYED.

By request of owners.

Beds	...	...	9	Counterpanes	...	...	3
Sundries	...	...	251	Mattresses	...	...	10
Sheets	...	...	7	Pillows	...	...	14
Blankets	...	...	9	Bolsters	...	...	6

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

A bye-law has been adopted in Watford but it has not been necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the past year.

The bye-law prescribes that the emission of black smoke for a period of two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes, from any building other than a private dwelling house, shall until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be a nuisance.

Health Education.

The monthly journal *Better Health* has a local circulation of 2,000 copies per month, whilst the posters supplied for certain posting stations in the town have kept up some interest in health matters. In addition a National Health Campaign was promoted by the Minister of Health. Each month a special supply of posters and leaflets was issued by the Central Council for Health Education.

INSPECTION UNDER SHOPS ACT, 1912-1936.

Mr. A. Corke has carried out this work and is responsible for the following classification:—

CLASSIFICATION OF SHOPS.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SHOPS	...	...	...	...	...	1,175
SHOPS EMPLOYING ASSISTANTS	...	...	...	...	...	665
SHOPS EMPLOYING YOUNG ASSISTANTS	...	...	...	...	...	331
SHOPS OPEN AFTER 8 p.m.	...	...	...	...	...	201
SHOPS OPEN ON HALF HOLIDAY	...	...	...	...	...	160
SHOPS OPEN ON SUNDAY	...	...	...	...	...	134

TRADES.	No.	TRADES.	No.
		Brought Forward	1,079
Theatres	8	Libraries	4
Licensed Premises	84	Cooked Foods	4
Grocery and Provisions	91	Wallpaper Merchants	5
Drapery, etc.	65	Toy Dealers	3
Butchers	59	Florists	9
Hairdressers	90	Photographers	4
Tobacconists	14	China and Glassware	3
Tob. and Confectioners	85	Saddlers and Sports	5
Tob., Confec., and Café	59	Pawnbrokers	3
Tob. Confec., and News.	43	Opticians	5
Tob., Confec., and General	69	Petrol Sales	5
Gent's Outfitters	42	Baby Carriage Specialists	4
Greengrocers	50	Woodwork Specialists	5
Bakers and Confectioners	36	Sewing Machines	3
Chemists	27	Builders' Merchants	3
Piano and Music	3	Canine Specialist	1
Boot and Shoe Retailers	25	Furrier	1
Furniture Stores	26	Umbrella Specialist	1
Cycle Dealers	20	Tea and Coffee Specialists	2
Ironmongers and Hardware	24	Foot Specialist	2
Fishmongers	25	Chain Stores	3
Leather and Grindery	20	Ice Cream Merchants	2
Dairies	12	Cooker Specialists	1
Jewellers	13	Milk Bar	1
Art Wool Stores	13	Typewriter Service	3
Wireless and Electric Stores	26	Restaurants	6
Naturalist and Nurserymen	2	Tool Specialists	2
General Providers	3	Picture Frame Makers	1
Valet Service	15	Electric Cleaner Specialists	1
Stationers	13	Paper Bag Specialists	2
Wardrobe Dealers	9	Leather Goods Specialists	1
Corn Merchants	8	Herbalist	1
Carried Forward	1,079	Total	1,175

SHOPS ACT, 1924.

LIST OF VISITS PAID AND ACTION TAKEN IN 1938.

Routine visits, Inspection of Records, etc.	2,017
Visits paid to shops on Wednesday, Early Closing Day ...	867
Evening visits to shops and observation on shops after Legal Closing Hours, allowed to be open for Exempted Goods	920
Reports submitted to Town Clerk of Infringements of Shops Act for consideration	9
Summons taken out	5
Fines imposed in Cases	4
Warnings sent to remainder	5
Warnings issued <i>re</i> infringements of Shops Act	69
New Shops added to records	nil.
Visits paid to Shops (Sunday Restriction Act)	396

MEASURES TAKEN TO SECURE HEALTH AND COMFORT OF SHOP WORKERS.

Unsatisfactory premises in need of repair, etc. (now in good order)	7
Heating installed in shops	4
Lavatory accommodation now provided in shops	3
Washing Facilities provided	2
Notices of exemption Lavatory accommodation issued to shops	1

The Watford Fried Fish Half Holiday Order, 1938.

Result of Voting

Voting papers distributed ...	19
Shops in favour	16
Shops against	3

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938

Visit and Register made of firms concerned. Memorandum given to all. Notice of option to apply Shops Acts received from eight theatres.

IV.—HOUSING.

(a) UNHEALTHY AREAS.

For list of insanitary houses demolished in the period from 1924 to the end of 1938, reference should be made to last year's report. These numbered 281. During the year 1938 the following houses have been demolished :—

5a, 6a, 7, 8, 9 Woodside, Leavesden.

Woodside Cottage, Woodside, Leavesden.

33, 35, 35a High Road, Leavesden.

107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119 and 121 High Road,
Leavesden.

1 and 3 Bushey Lodge Cottages, Bushey Mill Lane.

This brings the total number of houses demolished since 1924 up to 300.

HOUSING MATTERS DEALT WITH IN 1938.

Under Part IV of the Housing Act, 1936, action has been taken in all cases of overcrowding discovered (see table on p. 28). Seventeen cases of overcrowding were outstanding at the end of the year, and have all been dealt with.

(b) SCHEMES TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE

There is a proposal before the Council for the erection of 44 houses at Riverside Road. The number of houses owned by the Corporation is now 1,841. Mr. Pickering's waiting list of families requiring house accommodation still has 321 unsatisfied applicants. Of this number 194 are actually in possession of a house, but would prefer a council house if possible. These figures show a marked improvement on the position two or three years ago, when there were 600 applicants on the waiting list.

(c) CORPORATION HOUSING SCHEMES COMPLETED.

(At the end of the year 1938).

The list of houses given below includes not only those erected to relieve shortage, but also houses built for the re-housing of tenants from insanitary areas which have been demolished.

LIST OF HOUSES OWNED BY CORPORATION**ASSISTED SCHEMES. 1919 ACT (Total 953).**

Harebreaks (C. Brightman and Son) ...	...	...	828
Harebreaks (Garden Cities Co.) ...	...	...	47
Sydney Road ...	...	...	28
Rickmansworth Road ...	...	...	10
Rose Gardens ...	...	...	40

PRE-1919 SCHEME.

Willow Lane	22
-----------------	-----	-----	----

1923 ACT SCHEME.

Rookery Road	40
------------------	-----	-----	----

1924 ACT SCHEME (Total 457).

Wiggenhall Hall Estate ...	...	...	122
Harebreaks (Gammons Farm Estate) ...	...	...	124
Eastbury Road (Thorpe Crescent) ...	...	...	80
Harebreaks (Leggatts Way and Elm Grove) ...	...	...	18
Leavesden Green Estate ...	...	...	113

1930 ACT SCHEME (Total 152).

Leavesden Green ...	...	...	132
Water Lane (4 cottages and 16 flats)	20

1936 ACT SCHEME

Leavesden Green	105
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TENANT PURCHASE SCHEMES (Total 112).

Leggatts Way	16
Harebreaks	54
Blackwell Drive	24
Eastbury Road ...	...	...	18

Total ... 1,841

ADVANCES FOR HOUSE PURCHASE.

Much has been done by the Corporation in assisting private enterprise by means of loans. Mr. J. Ginger, the Borough Treasurer, reported to the Housing Committee on April 6th, 1939, that the position with regard to advances to the 1st April, 1939, for the purpose of acquiring houses, was as follows :—

	Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts 1899-1923		Housing Act 1925 Section 92		TOTAL.	
	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £
Amount Offered ...	1,537	874,970	159	121,000	1,696	995,970
Amount Advanced...	1,533	873,060	159	121,000	1,692	994,060
Amount Repaid ...	—	613,663	—	105,515	—	719,178
Amount Outstanding	—	£259,397	—	£15,485	—	£274,882

(d) HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	574
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts : (and 133 flats)	
(i) By the Local Authority	120
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

9. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	409
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2093
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	102
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	450
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	359

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	310
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	7
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—			
(a) By owners	...	...	3
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	4

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1.—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

IV. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV, OVERCROWDING:—

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	17
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	19
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	99
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	27
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	188
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

(e) **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

An Annual Statement of particulars about this work is required by the Ministry of Health and the particulars are as follows :

1. Premises dealt with for bugs, Public Health Department 69
Premises dealt with for bugs, Corporation Housing Department 8

Total 77
2. The methods employed were as follows :—
 - (a) Removal of woodwork.
 - (b) Burning by blowlamp to kill eggs.
 - (c) Application of germicidal liquid by brush and spray. “Zaldecide” is the preparation used for this purpose.
3. The methods employed to ensure that the belongings of tenants were free from vermin before removal to Council houses were as follows :—
Belongings were examined and destroyed where necessary, new materials being provided in some cases.
4. The work of disinfestation was carried out by private owners with assistance and supervision by the Public Health Department.

V. FACTORIES

The following tabulated statement (required by the Secretary of State) gives details of inspections, etc.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Number of Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	313	72	—
Factories without mechanical power	90	6	—
Other Premises	6	—	—
Total	409	78	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	74	74	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	—	—
Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule of the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921 and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
TOTAL	78	78	—	—

VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK.

There is one cowshed in occupation in the Borough and in this shed there are 34 cows kept, the milk from which is used in the district. Besides this there are no less than 57 different milk supplies produced in other districts, which come into the Borough.

During the year 117 samples of milk have been taken and these have been examined by Drs. Beale and Suckling for tuberculosis, etc. The following table shows the result of these examinations:—

Number of Samples	...	...	...	117
Number found satisfactory	...	...	...	97, or 82.90%
Number found with tubercle bacilli	...	...	...	0, or 0.00%
Number found with blood or pus cells	...	...	...	20, or 17.10%

In all cases where the samples were not satisfactory the Authority for the district in which the milk was produced was communicated with, and each case was dealt with by the Authority responsible.

In addition to these samples, in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, systematic samples have been taken of Tuberculin Tested milk.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.—Under this Order there are three licensed vendors of Tuberculin Tested milk, but there are no producers in the Borough of milk under special designations. There is one licensed apparatus in the Borough for the pasteurisation of milk, and this process is partially and unofficially carried out in connection with some of the milk sold from one other dairy.

There is evidence that the amount of milk sold under special designations is increasing and this is undoubtedly a satisfactory development.

(b) MEAT.

Watford is an important centre for the slaughter of animals, and the Kosher method is practised at one large slaughter house in the town. A full-time officer is engaged in food inspection, the greater part of his time being employed in connection with duties at the slaughter houses.

The following is a tabular statement of the number of slaughter houses in the town:—

				In January,		In December,	
				In 1920	1930	1938	
Registered	...	...	6	...	6	...	5
Licensed	...	...	5	...	5	...	2
				—	—	—	
Total	...	...	11	...	11	...	7
				—	—	—	

1938.

FOOD INSPECTION.**Total number of Animals examined.**

Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
4,282	10,753	12,376	2,570

Condemned and Destroyed

4,417 st. English Beef.
 485 st. Imported Beef.
 7 st. English Mutton.
 42 st. Pork.
 6 st. Frozen Mutton.
 7 st. Veal.
 139 Beasts and all Organs (Weight, 9,065 st.)
 28 Calves and all Organs.
 385 Beasts' Lungs.
 285 „ Livers.
 606 „ Heads.
 606 „ Tongues.
 131 „ Other Organs.
 475 Cows' Udders.
 7 Sheep and all Organs (Weight 41 st.)
 128 Sheep's Plucks.
 12 „ Kidneys (frozen).
 10 „ Heads.
 29 Pigs and all Organs (Weight 426 st.)
 131 „ Heads.
 150 „ Plucks.
 10 st. Haddocks.
 4 st. Herrings.

- 10 st. Cod.
- 5 st. Skate.
- 6 st. Catfish.
- 3 st. Dabs.
- 3 st. Dogfish.
- 4 st. Plaice.
- 2 Boxes Kippers.
- 11 Boxes Dried Haddocks.
- 9 st. Fish Fillets.
- 128 Tins Corned Beef.
- 94 Tins various Fruits.
- 10 Rabbits
- 36 Tins frozen Lambs' Livers.
- 42 Tins Ox Tongues.
- 4 Tins Asparagus.
- 4 Tins Ham.
- 16 Tins Salmon.
- 62 Tins Milk.
- 12 Tins Pilchards.
- 15 Tins Tomatoes
- 7 lbs. Bacon
- 9 Tins Chicken and Ham Roll
- 122 Tins Pork and Beans
- 7 Tins Veal
- 3 Tins Soup
- 3 Boxes Pigs' Kidneys
- 5 Cartons Lamb's Sweetbreads
- 3 Tins Pork
- 1 Tin Fruit Cocktail

	CATTLE <i>excluding Cows</i>	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number Killed	1,748	2,534	2,570	10,753	12,376
Number Inspected	1,748	2,534	2,570	10,753	12,376
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
(1) Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	2	3	26	7	10
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	128	161	1	128	58
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	7.4	6.4	1.05	1.2	.55
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
(1) Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	7	127	2	—	19
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	107	372	—	—	210
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.5	19.6	.07	—	1.8

VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER.—A hundred and twenty-four cases occurred, of which 121 were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths from this disease. A table on the next page gives the incidence of this disease since 1892 and shows a great decline in the number of cases and also in the severity of the disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case occurred in Watford during 1938. This appeared to have been contracted from a “carrier.” The case was a severe one but made a good recovery.

PREVALENCE OF SCARLET FEVER IN WATFORD

since 1892.

Year	Total number Scarlet Fever cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000	Number cases sent to Hospital	Number of deaths
1892	52	2.5	No Record	—
1893	364	18.0	268	7
1894	60	2.9	No Record	1
1895	66	3.0	64	3
1896	44	1.5	38	—
1897	46	1.8	41	—
1898	33	1.3	31	2
1899	190	7.0	No Record	4
1900	150	5.4	136	—
1901	130	3.9	119	3
1902	264	8.8	231	1
1903	155	5.0	130	2
1904	220	7.0	198	4
1905	117	3.4	98	—
1906	197	5.6	175	7
1907	254	7.0	225	5
1908	92	2.5	82	2
1909	121	2.8	106	—
1910	120	3.0	110	2
1911	102	2.4	93	1
1912	80	1.9	61	2
1913	58	1.4	58	—
1914	116	2.8	92	1
1915	100	2.3	94	2
1916	74	1.7	70	No Record
1917	26	0.6	26	—
1918	25	0.6	23	—
1919	164	4.0	138	—
1920	213	4.7	173	1
1921	181	4.0	149	—
1922	64	1.4	50	—
1923	35	0.7	29	1
1924	24	0.5	20	—
1925	149	3.0	131	None
1926	183	3.6	147	1
1927	91	1.7	79	2
1928	183	3.3	152	1
1929	190	3.4	151	1
1930	118	2.1	103	1
1931	64	1.1	52	None
1932	45	0.7	41	None
1933	89	1.5	83	2
1934	240	3.9	225	1
1935	91	1.4	84	None
1936	73	1.1	67	None
1937	96	1.4	91	None
1938	124	1.8	121	None

DIPHTHERIA.—Only 22 cases occurred, with 3 deaths. This small number of cases is very satisfactory. A table showing the prevalence of diphtheria in Watford since 1900 is given on the next page.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC.—This was started in 1935. The following figures show the work which has been done during the last four years.

				1935	1936	1937	1938
Total Attendances	...	...	...	539	705	436	522
Injections	...	...	...	405	149	285	309
Schick Tests	...	...	...	50	27	15	15
Positive Schick Tests	...	...	...	30	12	13	6
Negative Schick Tests	...	...	...	15	12	2	9
Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	72	71	65	110
Positive Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	1	1	3	2
Negative Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	71	70	62	108

The persons immunised were chiefly children under the age of 5 years, as it was thought best to concentrate mainly on this age period. In addition certain adults received treatment, chiefly the staff of the Isolation Hospital who usually need protection owing to the fact that they are exposed to the risk of infection, and others who applied for immunisation. A system of three injections was used, T.A.M. in the case of children under 5 years and T.A.F. in the case of adults. Preliminary Schick and Post-Schick tests were also used. Dr. Margaret Ward is the Medical Officer in charge of this clinic.

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE injections were also given in 3 cases.

ERYSIPELAS.—Thirteen cases were notified as compared with 16 in the previous year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—Sixteen cases were notified. Two deaths occurred from this disease.

CHICKEN POX AND MEASLES are not notifiable diseases in this Borough.

PNEUMONIA (which includes primary pneumonia and influenzal pneumonia).—Sixteen cases were notified. This notification is of some value at times when influenza is prevalent, in order to show the extent of the epidemic, and also the number of serious cases.

PREVALENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN WATFORD

since 1900

Year.	Total Number Diphtheria Cases Notified.	Attack Rate per 1,000.	Number cases sent to Hospital.	Number of Deaths.
1900	106	3.4	85	9
1901	80	2.7	66	6
1902	95	3.1	71	8
1903	114	3.6	102	10
1904	38	1.1	24	1
1905	85	2.4	66	4
1906	129	3.6	100	3
1907	218	5.7	164	15
1908	125	3.2	84	8
1909	82	2.0	59	3
1910	33	0.8	22	1
1911	61	1.5	46	3
1912	30	0.7	20	3
1913	58	1.3	43	3
1914	89	2.0	68	4
1915	75	1.8	62	7
1916	77	1.9	67	6
1917	88	2.2	72	3
1918	58	1.3	44	5
1919	64	1.4	48	1
1920	45	0.9	34	1
1921	36	0.8	34	1
1922	61	1.3	45	3
1923	14	0.3	9	1
1924	27	0.6	25	5
1925	30	0.6	30	4
1926	16	0.3	14	1
1927	25	0.5	22	2
1928	43	0.8	39	2
1929	164	3.0	160	7
1930	178	3.2	170	11
1931	94	1.7	90	6
1932	61	1.1	60	2
1933	20	0.3	19	—
1934	28	0.5	25	2
1935	15	0.2	15	1
1936	15	0.2	15	None
1937	19	0.2	19	2
1938	22	0.3	22	3

The *attack rate* recorded for 1938 (0.3 per 1,000) is very low. This figure has been very satisfactory for the last six years. It will be seen from the above table that the attack rate in 1900 from diphtheria was ten times greater than in 1938.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—The usual seasonal occurrence of these diseases resulted in one death from whooping cough, and three from measles.

INFLUENZA.—A comparatively mild type of this disease was prevalent in 1938 which caused 9 deaths as compared with 26 in the previous year.

VENEREAL DISEASES are dealt with by the County Council. No treatment centres have been established in the County owing to facilities for treatment which are easily available in London. Cases of this disease occasionally present themselves at the Public Health Offices, and are directed to obtain treatment at one of the London hospitals. In certain necessitous cases, who were unable to afford the fares to London, the County Council has, from time to time, defrayed this expense in order to assist the obtaining of treatment.

PREVALENCE OF ENTERIC FEVER IN WATFORD
since 1900

Year	Para-Typhoid	Typhoid	Total Enteric Cases	Deaths
1900	—	20	20	3
1901	—	13	13	1
1902	—	—	5	2
1903	—	—	4	1
1904	—	—	9	2
1905	—	—	8	1
1906	—	—	7	1
1907	—	—	7	—
1908	—	—	4	2
1909	—	—	5	1
1910	—	—	4	1
1911	—	—	7	1
1912	—	—	4	—
1913	—	—	—	—
1914	—	—	1	—
1915	—	—	3	—
1916	—	No record	—	—
1917	—	—	2	—
1918	—	—	1	—
1919	—	—	3	—
1920	—	—	1	—
1921	—	12	12	1
1922	—	—	6	—
1923	—	—	2	—
1924	—	—	8	3
1925	1	—	1	—
1926	2	—	2	—
1927	2	—	2	—
1928	8	1	9	—
1929	5	1	6	—
1930	—	5	5	—
1931	—	2	2	—
1932	1	4	5	3
1933	—	1	1	—
1934	—	—	1	—
1935	—	—	3	1
1936	—	5	5	—
1937	1	—	1	—
1938	—	1	1	—

With regard to the above list of cases, in only two instances were there definite outbreaks of the disease, one in 1900—01 and another in 1921. The other figures given were usually on account of scattered or sporadic cases not connected with each other. On investigation it is commonly found that the illness has been contracted on a holiday or during a visit to some place away from the Watford district. Only one case occurred in Watford during the last year.

TABLE D.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1938—BOROUGH OF WATFORD

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Cases notified in whole District												Total cases notified in each locality									Total cases removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths			
	At all ages	At ages											Garston	Knutsford	Harebreaks	Bradshaw	St. Andrews	Cassiobury	Harwoods	Kings	Queens			Oxhey		
		under 1	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	35 years	45 years													65 years and up	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	22	—	1	1	1	6	4	2	4	2	4	1	—	4	—	2	3	4	3	—	2	4	6	—	—	—
Erysipelas	13	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	6	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	124	1	1	5	7	31	40	11	10	10	10	1	—	30	11	7	9	13	9	—	8	6	—	121	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	4	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Poliomyelitis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pneumonia	19	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	7	4	4	—	4	2	5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	207	6	2	6	9	8	38	46	14	38	24	12	4	42	16	17	16	23	22	10	14	—	167	—	—	

TABLE E shows that two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified, both of which were treated with satisfactory results.

TABLE E.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

	Cases			Vision Unim- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	At Hos- pital				
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Two	One				

TABLE F shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths from this disease.

TABLE F.—TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5	4	2	1	1	—	2	1	—
10	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
15	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	6	8	3	—	2	4	1	—
25	8	10	—	—	6	3	—	—
35	8	4	—	—	3	3	—	—
45	10	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
55	7	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	1	—	1	3	—	—
TOTALS ...	50	34	8	4	17	18	2	1

Of the 38 cases who died from tuberculosis, 29 were notified and 9 un-notified

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. It was not found necessary to take action under the powers given by either of these. There is only one cowshed in the Borough at which none of the workers suffers from pulmonary tuberculosis. With regard to compulsory removal to hospital of persons in an infectious state suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, up to the present time no cases have arisen where removal was so urgent as to justify the exercise of compulsion.

VISITS TO TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.—These are paid by the Health Visitors of the Borough. The object of the visit is chiefly to ensure that precautions against infections are taken, to advise about general care of the health, and to ascertain whether home and sanitary conditions are satisfactory. During the year 472 visits of this nature were paid. There are several shelters in use by patients in the Borough.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

The following is a list of activities carried out under the scheme in the shape of clinics and centres.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road—Tuesdays.

Wiggenhall House—Fridays.

Wesleyan Schoolroom, Harebreaks—Mondays.

Scouts' Hall, Leggatts Way—Tuesdays.

The following are also held at 1 St. Albans Road :

Pre-School (Toddlers') Clinic—Wednesdays.

Ante-Natal and Mothercraft Centre—Thursdays.

Post-Natal Centre—2nd and 4th Mondays.

Dental Clinic—1st and 3rd Mondays.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held every Wednesday Morning in The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road.

(a) STATISTICS.

The following three tables give statistics of the work, including that of previous years for the sake of comparison:—

I. Visits by Health Visitors.

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
First visits	750	723	785	689	826	942	937	991	1030
Re-visits	3094	3155	3088	3036	3278	2328	4096	2889	4468
Visits 1-5 years	2145	2062	1283	1555	2020	2066	2957	5127	5201
Ante-natal	319	285	218	223	240	195	243	251	220
Tuberculosis, Dental visits, etc.	538	545	382	354	417	503	589	520	615
Total visits paid	6846	6770	5756	5857	6781	6034	8872	9778	11584

II. Attendances at the Centres.

Centre.	Weighings.	Consulta- tions.	Number of Infants on Books.	New Cases Examined.
Leggatts Way ...	... 2,080	680	255	226
The Hut ...	... 3,661	822	349	254
Wiggenhall House ...	... 3,331	755	200	139
North Watford...	... 3,291	940	396	209
Totals...	... 12,403	3,197	1200*	828

*The above figure of 1,200 infants on the books refers to children under the age of 18 months. In addition there are 720 other children (the so-called 'toddlers') attending the centres, making a total of 1,920 children under five years on the books.

III. Other Statistics.

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
<hr/>									
<i>Ante-natal clinic:—</i>									
Mothers attending	257	264	231	200	220	298	312	358	374
Total attendances	809	848	768	568	767	896	866	861	1318
<i>Dental Clinic:—</i>									
Ante-natal cases	43	34	31	36	34	79	60	47	71
Nursing mothers	56	80	76	55	50	52	58	81	92
Children ...	68	76	82	115	135	119	126	127	151
<i>Orthopædic Centre:—</i>									
Cases referred for treatment...	34	63	63	73	100	97	99	95	108
<i>Free Milk:—</i>									
Number of Cases	87	109	114	112	107	107	161	199	253
<i>Post Natal Clinic:—</i>									
Mothers Attending ...	...	...	...	...	...	48	38	41	77
Number of Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	58	59	71	86

ATTENDANCES OF INFANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH.—320 children were brought to the various centres from places outside the Borough, such as Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, King's Langley, Abbot's Langley, Bushey, Aldenham, Bricket Wood, Elstree, etc. Such cases are at liberty to attend if the parents wish it, and a small grant is available from the County Council funds in respect of such attendances. There were 2,409 attendances on the part of the 320 cases mentioned. The above figures include 65 mothers and children attending the Dental Clinic, 61 at the Toddlers' Clinic, and 49 Ante-Natal cases.

(b) RED CROSS ORTHOPÆDIC CENTRE.

Mr. S. L. Higgs, F.R.C.S., who is now assisted by Mr. W. Coltart, F.R.C.S., attends as consultant at the Centre which is now held in Queen's Road. A large number of cases are referred each year from the Infant Welfare Centre. A block grant of £40 per annum is given by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee towards the cost of treatment, and further grants for splints. In addition, cases referred for treatment at the Orthopædic Hospital are also assisted. Particulars of the number of cases referred to the orthopædic centre since its opening will be found in the table of statistics at the beginning of this section of the report. The following is a list of 108 cases referred this year. In some cases splints, and in others alterations to shoes, or valgus insoles were ordered.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE CASES FOR 1938
WATFORD.

The following figures have been supplied by Miss M. Kirby.

Knock Knees	...	...	...	...	47
Bow Legs	...	...	...	...	25
Congenital Club Feet	...	...	...	...	7
Flat Foot	...	...	...	...	16
Congenital Wry Neck	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Dislocation of Hip	...	...	...	...	1
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	11
					108

(c) **PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC.**

This is sometimes known as the Toddlers' Clinic, but actually it deals with children between the ages of eighteen months and five years. The Medical Officer, Dr. Margaret Ward, reports as follows :

During the year 52 sessions were held, with a total of 722 examinations of new and old cases. This gives an average of 14 examinations per session, of which rather more than half were new cases.

The nutrition of the boys was better than that of the girls but in other respects there was not much difference.

Dental caries occurred in 83 cases. Of these more than half had never attended any clinic before. The rest had attended at some time though not always regularly.

Cases requiring ophthalmic treatment were seen by Dr. Gardener, and we are greatly indebted to him for his skill with the children.

It was found that a great many children were put to bed very late, for various reasons. Some of these were allowed to sleep on late the next morning, so that altogether they had sufficient sleep but at the wrong time of day. Advice was given as to suitable bed time hours. A certain number of children were

clearly suffering from lack of sleep, and were below par mentally and physically in consequence.

The children attending the Oxhey Nursery School during the year have been under observation and it is very satisfactory to note the marked improvement they have shown physically and in their general behaviour.

The table of cases and the observations in this report refer only to new cases for the year. There were, in addition, 353 re-examinations, and among these were many interesting cases, who were kept under observation or referred for treatment elsewhere.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF TODDLERS, 1938.

Disease, Defect or condition †						Total
Nutrition:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	248
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	95
(c) Poor	...	...	...	...	...	26
Muscular Tone:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	248
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	91
(c) Poor	...	...	...	...	...	20
Clothing and Footgear:						
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	259
(b) Unsatisfactory	...	..	...	...	...	10
Cleanliness:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	348
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	18
(c) Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	3

Disease, Defect or condition						Total
Skin:						
Minor Skin conditions	...	...	...	...	...	22
Eczema	...	...	...	...	...	1
Naevi ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	6
Eye:						
Squint	...	...	...	...	...	13
Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ear:						
Otorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nose and Throat:						
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	...	...	58
Enlarged Glands	...	...	...	...	...	63
Teeth:						
Caries...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Late Dentition	...	...	...	...	...	38
Heart and Circulation:						
(a) Functional Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b) Organic Heart Disease...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anaemia	...	...	...	...	...	11
Lungs:						
Bronchial Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nervous System:						
Minor Retardation	...	...	...	...	...	16
Behaviour Symptoms	...	...	...	...	...	60
Mental Deficiency	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	1

Disease, Defect or condition						Total
Alimentary System:						
Poor Appetite	...	...	...	...	...	54
Constipation ...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Threadworms	...	...	...	...	...	14
Genito-Urinary System:						
Enuresis	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rickets:						
Active	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Healed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Deformities:						
Genu Valgum	...	...	...	...	...	45
Genu Varum...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Minor Defects	...	...	...	...	...	32
Vaccinated Children	...	...	...	...	...	81
Children who had not attended a clinic before	...	...	...	...	...	85
New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	369
Re-examinations	...	...	...	...	...	353
Total Examinations...	...	...	...	...	...	722
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	1,504

REPORT ON ANTE-NATAL AND POST NATAL CLINICS.

By DR. WINIFRED PIGGOTT.

This year we have had a great increase in the numbers attending the Ante-Natal clinic. We have held 81 sessions with a total attendance of 1,318, i.e., 386 attendances more than last year. Of these 374 were first visits and 944 re-visits.

The average attendance per session was 17.6 as against 12.6 last year.

Three midwives now attend the clinics regularly on specified days and I think they appreciate the opportunity of examining their patients with me and talking over their difficulties.

82 cases were recommended for dental treatment and of these 71 availed themselves of the privilege.

The Post-Natal cases numbered 77. Five of these were referred to the Gynæcological Clinic of the Peace Memorial Hospital, the rest were given advice and did not need actual treatment.

(f) **DENTAL REPORT, 1938.****MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.**

I am indebted to Dr. S. Fisk for the following report :—

The following table shows the number of cases treated :—

Nursing Mothers ...	...	...	...	91
Ante-Natal Mothers ...	...	...	...	71
Children under 5 years of age ...	...	...	...	151
				—
Total	...	...	...	313

Total attendance, 333; Sessions, 23

BENEVOLENT FUND, 1938.

Miss Hammond reports as follows :—

This fund is raised by small donations from mothers attending the Clinic, also from the profits on teas provided.

There was an income of £24 19s. 6d. during the year. Of this amount £15 19s. 6d. was spent, leaving a balance of £9 0s. 0d. The money was expended on sending six children and two mothers to a convalescent home, providing home helps in two cases, and extra nourishment for six mothers. In addition assistance was given for provision of spectacles for six toddlers, and in other directions.

Thanks are tendered to various kind friends for generous gifts of clothing, boots, and parcels of groceries.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Borough of Watford is now responsible for carrying out this work which was formerly done in connection with the old Poor Law Administration. The following figures have been compiled by Miss Hammond:—

Number of persons on register who were receiving children for					
reward at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	28

FOSTER CHILDREN.

Coming under observation during 1938	...	...	...	...	28
Number on books at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	43
(a) 4 were under twelve months.					
(b) 47 were over twelve months and under nine years of age					
Number who entered Watford with their foster children	...	...	...	...	—
Removed from observation during the year:					
(a) Number given up or returned to parents	...	...	...	...	19
(b) Died...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) Legally adopted	...	...	...	...	3
(d) Removed to Institutions	...	...	...	...	4
(e) Left Watford	...	...	...	...	1
(f) Reached the age of nine	...	...	...	...	3
Remaining under observation:					
(a) Under twelve months	...	...	...	...	6
(b) Over twelve months	...	...	...	...	37
					—
				TOTAL	43
Total number of visits paid	...	...	...	...	210

DENTAL CLINIC.—A dental clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. The work is steadily increasing and 213 cases received treatment during the past year. Twenty-two sessions were held. Nine mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets, in one case the whole of the cost was paid by the Council, and in two other cases assistance was given by paying part of the cost.

MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER, 1920.

The object of giving grants of free milk to necessitous cases under this order is to ensure improvement of nutrition in both mother and child. There is careful investigation of all cases by the Health Visitor, due care being taken to avoid overlapping with charitable and other organisations performing a similar work. The amount of milk granted has not been limited to one pint per day

in cases where more was necessary, and in some instances grants of dried milk were made, also malt and cod liver oil where this was necessary. Altogether 199 cases were assisted in 1938 as compared with 161 in the previous year. There has been a tendency to increase the number of cases year by year. This does not necessarily indicate an increased number of necessitous cases, but rather greater care in discovering and investigating the cases. If this has resulted in greater expenditure of money, it can only be said that money spent on maintaining the national physique is money well spent. The following table gives an account of expenditure for the last eight years.

EXPENDITURE ON FREE MILK.

	Fresh Milk.			Dried Milk.			TOTAL.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
March, 1930, to March, 1931 ...	75	0	0	43	5	8	108	5	8
March, 1931, to March, 1932 ...	84	7	1	44	16	0	126	3	1
March, 1932, to March, 1933 ...	93	12	4	46	15	3	140	7	7
March, 1933, to March, 1934 ...	72	8	6	38	3	5	110	11	11
March, 1934, to March, 1935 ...	69	3	9	32	18	5	102	2	2
March, 1935, to March, 1936 ...	128	1	0	45	3	0	173	4	0
March, 1936, to March, 1937 ...	199	6	4	78	13	0	278	4	4
March, 1937, to March, 1938 ...	475	8	7	111	7	1	586	15	8

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.—As in previous years voluntary workers have played a valuable part in the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the Borough. It is necessary to have a considerable amount of voluntary work at the four centres to supplement the work of paid officers, in addition to work on committees. One sub-committee has also given great help in the selection of cases for grants of free milk, etc., Altogether this work has been most valuable and helpful in every way.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Under the Notification of Births Acts 1907 and 1915 all births should be notified to the M.O.H. within 36 hours. Persons competent to notify are the parent, the medical attendant or the midwife in attendance. If the birth is not notified in this way some delay may occur, owing to the fact that the information is then obtained through the Registrar of Births, a period of six weeks being allowed for registration.

The following list gives the number of births notified from various sources including 23 still births:—

Notified by:—

(a) Medical Practitioners and Parents ...	139
(b) Midwives	789
(c) Registrar of Births, not having been previously notified	99
	<hr/>
	1027
	<hr/>

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

This Society has a branch in Watford which deals not only with the Watford district but also with the whole of West and Mid Herts. Mr. H. M. Keet is the inspector, who resides at 7 Marlborough Road, Watford. I am indebted to him for the following report for the year 1938. The following cases show the value of the work from a public health and child welfare point of view.

CASES DEALT WITH BY THE SOCIETY IN THE WATFORD DISTRICT AND WEST AND MID HERTS BRANCH DURING PERIOD

1/1/38 to 31/12/39.

No. of cases ... 260 No. of children affected ... 624
of these the following were dealt with in WATFORD :

No. of cases ... 106 No. of children affected ... 223
and of this number the following were reported by the Health Visitors and School Nurses, etc. :

No. of cases ... 24 No. of children affected ... 62

- 5 children recommended for the wearing of glasses by School Medical Officer. Parents refused to obtain.
- 2 children suffering from impetigo, 1 from ringworm and 3 from other complaints requiring attention. Parents warned and advised by Medical Officers and Nurses but took no action. All these cases were successfully dealt with after warning to the parents by the Inspector.
- 5 children left alone and unattended in their homes.
- 2 children in danger of being burned through no provision of a fireguard.
- 6 children whose parents were failing to provide adequately for them for reasons within their control.
- 3 children being ill-treated.
- 26 children in filthy home surroundings entirely due to neglect by the parents.
- 9 children whose parents required assistance in various ways.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS, WATFORD AREA, 1938.

The Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Watford is responsible for the medical inspection of the following schools—Kingsway, Technical, Leavesden C.E., Leggatts Way, Chater, Field, Parkgate Road, Holy Rood Roman Catholic, Beechen Grove Boys, and Higher Elementary. The following report, therefore, relates chiefly to these schools. For a fuller account of medical inspection of school children, the Annual Report of the County School Medical Officer should be consulted.

The children of these schools constitute about half the total number in the elementary schools of the Borough, the remaining schools in the town being dealt with by Dr. Buchanan.

The following groups of children were inspected :—

- (1) Those children just admitted to school—entrants.
- (2) Children born in the year 1930 known as the intermediate group.
- (3) The group known as “leavers”, in which are included all those children known to be on the point of leaving and those who have not previously been examined.

In all 1,696 children were examined in the course of routine inspection. Of these 1,696 children 558 children (or 32 per cent.) were found to be suffering from defects which required medical treatment. Altogether the 558 children were suffering from 581 defects, as it is quite common for one child to have two conditions which require treatment, as, e.g., enlarged tonsils and carious teeth.

TREATMENT OF AILMENTS FOUND.—In the majority of cases, treatment was obtained promptly by parents, on, or shortly after, receiving notification of the defect from the medical inspector.

The following table gives a list of ailments for which parents were advised to obtain treatment either at the hands of their family doctor, or at the Dental Clinic, or in the case of enlarged tonsils, by operative or other treatment by the staff of the Peace Memorial Hospital or their own medical attendant. The results of this procedure are also shown in the table. The figures below refer only to cases which were advised to obtain treatment at a clinic or other medical institution. In addition to these, advice was given in many cases about conditions not included in these figures.

Disease.	Number of children affected.		Number treated.		Under treatment.	No action taken by parents.	
Carious Teeth ...	282	...	248	...	32	...	12
Tonsils and Adenoids	90	...	84	...	2	...	4
Defective Vision ...	184	...	172	...	12	...	—
Orthopædic cases	7	...	5	...	2	...	—

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.—During the past year as in previous years only the more urgent cases were dealt with surgically. Conditions which were considered to indicate operation were as follows—obstruction of breathing, repeated colds or tonsillitis, cervical adenitis, and cases where there was considerable discharge from the ear, deafness and mouth breathing. In many cases the child was referred to its own medical attendant for observation, with the advice that operative treatment would be provided later if required. In many cases the condition was found to be temporary following a bad “cold” or some other illness.

DEFECTIVE VISION.—For this condition 184 children were dealt with in the last year as compared with 171 in the previous year. It is satisfactory to find that spectacles have been provided for a large number of cases during the past year, owing to interest in the matter taken by parents and teachers. In connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme an eye specialist has recently been appointed with a view to anticipating treatment of sight defects in the school child. The value of early treatment is obvious and needs no comment.

CARIOUS TEETH.—The figures for the year show that there is very little opposition to treatment on the part of the parents or children. Parents, instead of raising objections to dental treatment, are now very willing for it to be given, and frequently ask for it for their children.

MALNUTRITION.—This condition does not appear to be on the increase in the schools. Probably it has become less obvious through the issue of the free milk ration of one-third of a pint per day. A certain number of cases are detected by the medical inspector during routine inspections, but a larger number are sent down to the Health Office by the head teachers, being cases selected by them as needing extra nourishment. The judgment of the teachers in this matter is usually very accurate and reliable. The teacher is in a good position to form a judgment as to whether children need a free ration of milk, as in addition to observing deviations from normal health in the child he is frequently aware of the financial circumstances of the parents. During the last year 150 certificates for free milk have been given by Dr. Buchanan and myself. In addition to these cases, a large number of parents pay for the milk ration.

ORTHOPÆDIC CASES.—Seven cases are mentioned in the list of those which received special treatment, these cases being dealt with at the Red Cross Clinic in Grosvenor Road. The work of the Red Cross Clinic is particularly valuable, not only for school cases but also in the case of the pre-school child. A large number of other cases were referred for treatment from the Infant Welfare Centres.

CLEANLINESS.—Children are inspected with regard to cleanliness at the time of routine inspection and also by the School

Nurse who makes regular visits to all the schools for this purpose. During the last year inspections of this kind have been held in various schools on 200 occasions, and in addition reinspections were held on 101 occasions. Altogether there were 25,269 inspections and reinspections of children. The value of this work is beyond question. It is found to be most necessary after school holidays, and its continuance ensures a high standard of cleanliness in the schools. Again one is able to report that more inspections have been held during the past year than in previous years as the School Nurse has had some assistance in the work. It is very rarely necessary to exclude children from school on account of live vermin as owing to frequent inspections very few cases arrive at this stage of development.

DISINFECTION OF CLASSROOMS.—The usual disinfection of classrooms has been carried out by spraying with formalin followed by cleansing and free ventilation. During the year this has been performed 73 times compared with 39 disinfections in 1937. In most cases this was on account of the occurrence of Scarlet Fever in a school. Cases occurred during the year as follows—January 2, February 7, March 4, April 13, May 2, June 11, July 7, September 8, November 7, December 11, Total 73. In addition precautions were taken by inspection of “Contacts” in the same class as the cases which occurred.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.—Only one complaint was received during the last year with regard to insanitary conditions in connection with schools or school lavatories. This referred to a trough closet at one of the schools which was considered by a parent to be objectionable.

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS AND PARENTS.—Thanks are again due to the teachers for their assistance in connection with medical inspection of school children. Many of the teachers take great interest in the work, in some cases attending personally at these inspections. Their attendance is valuable on these occasions as they are able to give information about the child's health during school hours. The parents' presence at the inspections is at least equally important as they are able to give information about the child's medical history, and in addition they sometimes wish to ask questions about the child's health or the treatment of its ailments.

X. DENTAL TREATMENT.

In addition to the School dental work for which the Herts County Council is responsible, there is also a Dental Clinic in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. The following figures, however, for which I am indebted to Mr. C. H. Powell, refer to the work in connection with School children. Statistics relating to the Dental Treatment of Mothers and Infants will be found in the section of the Report dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare.

			Totals for period April, 1921 to Dec. 1938			
Number of children examined at School	...	1,273	...	26,448		
" " with sound dentures	...	560	...	10,920		
Attendances of Dentists :—						
Mr. A. C. Wilson (half day)	...	128	}	...	2,749	
Mr. L. Dinnis (half day)	...	40				
Mr. S. F. Fisk (half day)	...	40				
Attendances of children	...	3,053	...	42,306		
Average Attendance—Wednesdays (2 sessions)		31·1				
" Fridays (morning)	...	12·4	}	...	14·7	
" Fridays (afternoon)	...	14·3				
Number of children treated with Nitrous Oxide						
Gas	...	1,414	...	13,775		
Attendances of Dr. Reynolds (Anæsthetist)	...	62	...	571		
Average number treated per attendance	...	22·8	...	24·1		
FILLINGS	{ 1st Permanent Molar	...	347	}	...	11,081
	{ Other Permanent Teeth	...	288			
	{ Temporary Teeth	...	15			
EXTRACTIONS	{ Permanent Teeth	...	963	...	9,034	
	{ Temporary Teeth	...	4,209	...	55,107	
OTHER OPERATIONS :—						
Scaling, Dressing, etc.	...	79	...	1,490		

DETAILS—PERMANENT TEETH.

FILLINGS.				EXTRACTIONS.			
No. 1	...	...	114	No. 1	...	...	11
2	...	...	94	2	...	...	28
3	...	...	2	3	...	...	9
4	...	...	16	4	...	...	46
5	...	...	17	5	...	...	67
6	...	...	347	6	...	...	763
7	...	...	45	7	...	...	36
8	...	...	—	8	...	...	3
Total ... 635				Total ... 963			

XI. WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The number of cases admitted during the year 1938 was 361 compared with 236 in 1937, and 242 in 1936. Including 29 cases who were under treatment in hospital from the previous year, this makes a total of 390 patients treated during the year 1938. The following table gives the number of cases admitted from each district, and also the total number of cases of each disease.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES ADMITTED FROM
THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN 1938.

District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Poliomyelitis	Enteric	Conjunctivitis	German Measles	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Mumps	Impetigo	Dysentery	Totals
Watford Borough ...	129	30	8	3	1	4	1	4	33	4	9	—	2	—	228
Watford Rural ...	23	11	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	42
Bushey Urban ...	12	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	21
Rickmansworth Urban ...	31	25	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	60
Chorleywood Urban ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. Albans Rural ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hemel Hempstead ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Barnet ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Wembley ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
Totals ...	198	70	13	4	3	4	2	5	42	7	9	1	2	1	361

The following results were obtained with regard to the total number of patients in hospital during the year.

Patients discharged—cured—during 1938 ...	339
Patients died in Hospital during 1938 ...	8
Patients still in Hospital, 1st January, 1939 ...	43
	<hr/> 390

The number of deaths which occurred in the hospital was as follows :—diphtheria 3, erysipelas 1, scarlet fever 2, impetigo 1, measles 1. Total 8.

The 43 cases in hospital, 1st January, 1939, consisted of 25 scarlet fever, 13 diphtheria, 1 poliomyelitis, 1 mumps and 3 chicken pox.

From the figures given in the Table it will be seen that 1938 was a fairly busy year at the Isolation Hospital, 390 patients being treated. A large variety of diseases was admitted in addition to the fact that more cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria occurred than in the previous year. After these two diseases, measles came next with 42 cases. It is important that a certain proportion of severe cases of measles should be treated in hospital, those for instance which are complicated by broncho-pneumonia. Also cases of measles have to be removed from other hospitals and institutions, and the same applies to other infections such as whooping cough and chicken pox.

Owing to the greater variety of diseases now admitted to Isolation Hospitals there is an increasing use for the cubicle system of treatment. With an increased number of cubicles it is also much easier to deal with the "doubtful" case. Medical practitioners need not hesitate to send in the "doubtful" case, as there are now ample facilities for the separation of such cases from those in the general ward. In the case of diphtheria it is often very important that the "doubtful" case should be sent in for observation and early treatment, considering the serious danger of delay in the treatment of this disease.

It is hoped that during the coming year there will be provided a number of cubicles for scarlet fever cases. This arrangement will be a great advantage for a variety of reasons, amongst which is the fact that the relatives of many cases desire them to have treatment in a separate cubicle or small ward. The cubicle is again useful in the treatment of this disease when it is desirable to separate a case for observation, or a case of scarlet fever complicated by some other disease.

The new diphtheria block was made good use of during the year, especially when a small outbreak of this disease occurred in one of the districts, when it was a great advantage to have all the cases in one block without the necessity for an overflow. The new diphtheria block is well lighted and ventilated, and in spite of a large surface of glass can be kept perfectly warm by means of central heating. The same remark also applies to the cubicles, with the additional advantage of separation of the cases.

